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REMARKS

Claims 1-14, 17, 18 and 26 remain in this application. Claims 1 and 9 are amended herein to clarify the invention and to address matters of form unrelated to substantive patentability issues.

The applicants and applicants' attorney appreciate the Examiner's granting of the telephone interview conducted on June 18, 2003, and extend their thanks to the Examiner and his Supervisor for their time and consideration. During the interview, it was indicated that the method limitations in product claim 1 were being given no patentable weight, and should be pursued as product-by-process claims in another application directed to a method of production. Claim 1 is amended to reflect the subject matter of claim 28, cancelled herein as now being redundant, and is directed to a resin boot formed a material comprising a thermoplastic elastomer resin and mineral oil in which an aromatic content of said mineral oil is not greater than 13 %. During the interview, submission of a Rule 132 Declaration to provide evidence of unexpected advantages of such range was discussed, and the Examiner kindly agreed to allow Applicants sufficient time to prepare such Declaration for filing along with a Supplemental Amendment. A Rule 132 Declaration executed by one of the inventors of the instant invention accompanies this amendment in support of the non-obviousness of the claimed subject matter of claim 1 and the claims

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dependent therefrom. It is noted by Applicants in further support of the patentability of the claims that since none of the cited art of record makes any causal connection between aromatic content of the mineral oil and improved characteristics of a finished product, one of ordinary skill in the art would have had no reason at the time of the invention to have believed that optimizing a range of such aromatic content would result in the advantages stated in the specification and the Rule 132 Declaration.

In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

Respectfully submitted,
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enc: Rule 132 Declaration

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APPENDIX I

AMENDED CLAIMS WITH AMENDMENTS INDICATED THEREIN
BY BRACKETS AND UNDERLINING

1. (Twice amended) A flexible resin boot, comprising:
structure including a first port and a second port that are connected
with each other via a bellows therebetween, said structure being [molded from a
molding material] formed of a material comprising [a mixture of] a thermoplastic
elastomer resin and mineral oil, an aromatic content of said mineral oil being not
greater than 13 %.

9. (Thrice amended) The flexible resin boot as claimed in claim [27] 1,
wherein the aromatic content of said mineral oil is from 0 to 10 %.